

## **Information for File #2007-3622-KJU**

**Applicant: Canadian National Railroad**

**Corps Contact: Kelly Urbanek**

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**Phone: 218-444-6381**

**Primary County: Koochiching County**

**Section: SW,NW Sections 30, 31**

**Township: 71N**

**Range: 23W**

**Information Complete On: August 3, 2007**

**Posting Expires On: August 24, 2007**

**Authorization Type: Letter of Permission**

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01. We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Our jurisdictional review and final jurisdictional determination could result in modifications to the scope of the project's regulated waterbody/wetland impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements identified above. An approved jurisdictional determination will be made prior to reaching a permit decision, and will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

### **Project Description:**

The applicant proposes to discharge fill material into 1.9 acres of wetlands adjacent to an unnamed tributary to the Rainy River for the purposes of constructing approximately 3600 feet of new railroad siding (side track) and parallel maintenance road west of the centerline of the existing tracks south of Ranier, MN and Trunk Highway 11. In addition, 1000 feet of new track will be constructed interior of the proposed 3600 feet of track and a 30' X 70' building between the two sets of tracks.

The Canadian National Railroad (CN) has been experiencing increased international shipments into the U.S. at Ranier, MN, that frequently require inspection by U.S. Customs officials. The Ranier yard experiences a marked increase in the volume of freight cars that require inspection. The project will construct two parallel tracks which would allow these international shipments to be broken out and set aside for inspection by U.S. Customs officials while the remaining freight shipment can proceed on schedule. The proposed building is required by U.S. Customs to provide a shelter for freight/cargo that is removed for inspection.

**NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS:**

A total of 1.9 acres of wetlands would be permanently impacted as a result of the project. Impacts include 0.13 acres of shallow marsh wetland (Type 3); 1.03 acres of shrub-carr wetland (Type 6); and 0.70 acres of broad-leaved deciduous wooded wetland (Type 7).

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

No other project locations were explored by the applicant since the siding tracks and facility must be located within the borders of the U.S. and sufficiently close enough to the international border for Customs officials to be able to locate and intercept incoming freight shipments that require inspection. In addition, the facility must be located near or adjacent to the existing railway facilities that are served by CN on a steady basis in order for the facility to remain efficient. The applicant considered a different siding alignment and building configuration but this resulted in additional wetland impact.

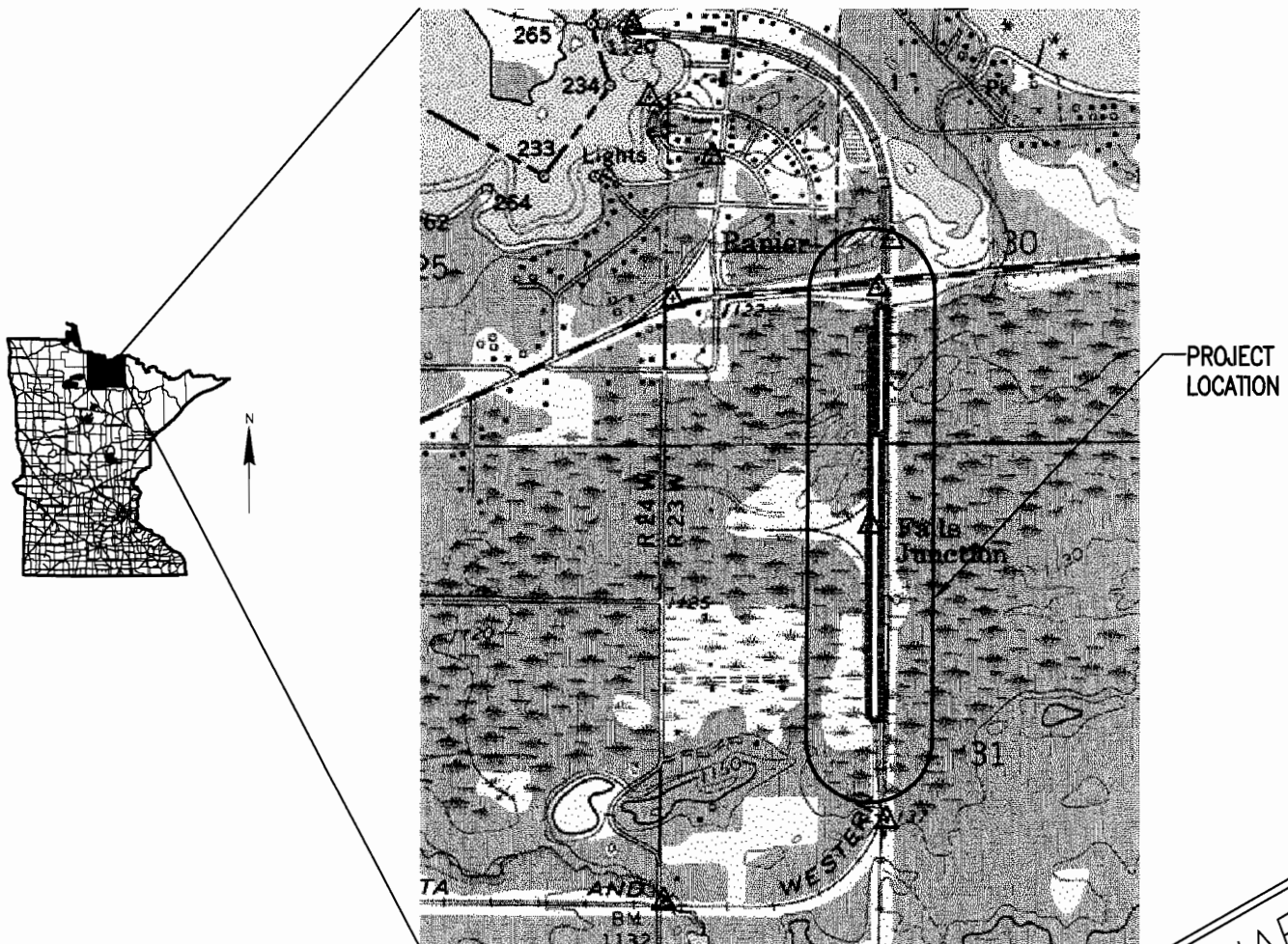
**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:**

The applicant has proposed as compensatory mitigation the withdrawal of credits from a Corps-approved mitigation bank at a ratio of 1.5:1.

**Drawings**      See attached.

# Canadian National Railroad

## RANIER KOOCHICHING CO., MN US CUSTOMS FACILITY



PRELIMINARY  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

**KRECH  
OJARD**  
& ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Engineers & Architects

227 West First Street ~ Suite 200 ~ Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
Ph: 218.727.3282 Fax: 218.727.1216  
• Web: www.KrechOjard.com •

CN RANIER  
CUSTOMS FACILITY

COVER SHEET SITE PLAN

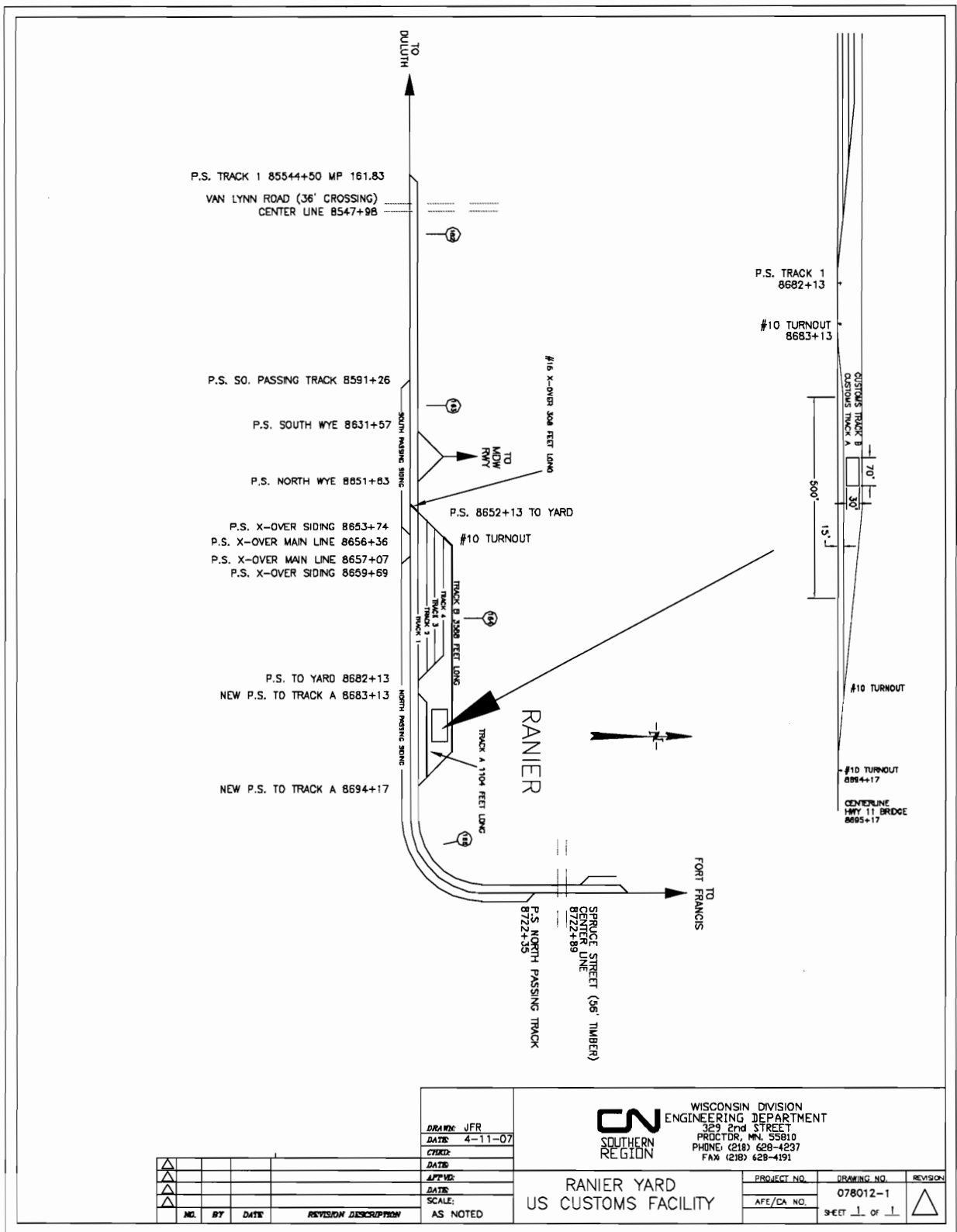
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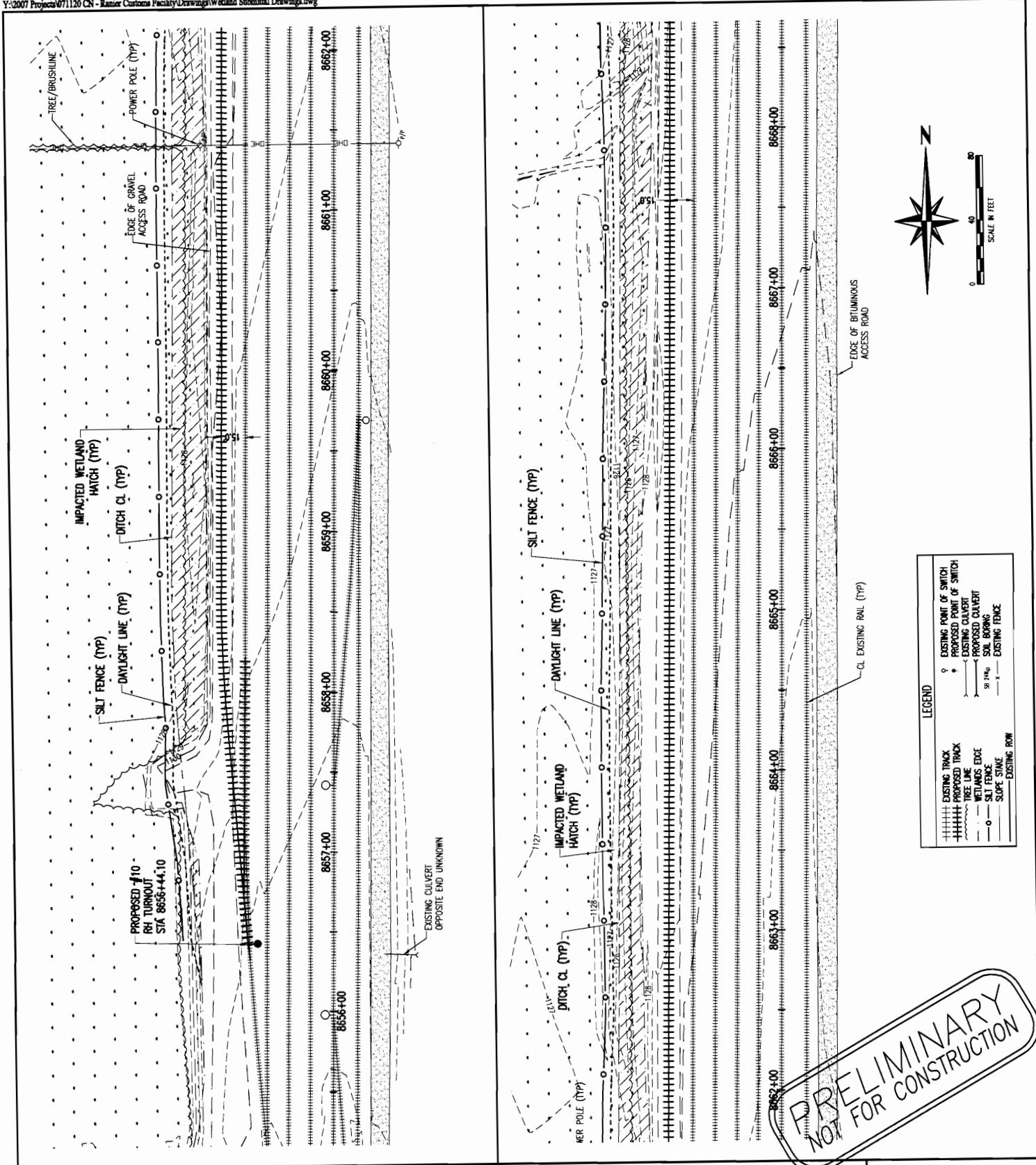
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OF 24

2007 3622 KJU Page 1 of 5



2007-3622-KJK  
Pg 2 of 5



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PLAN VIEW

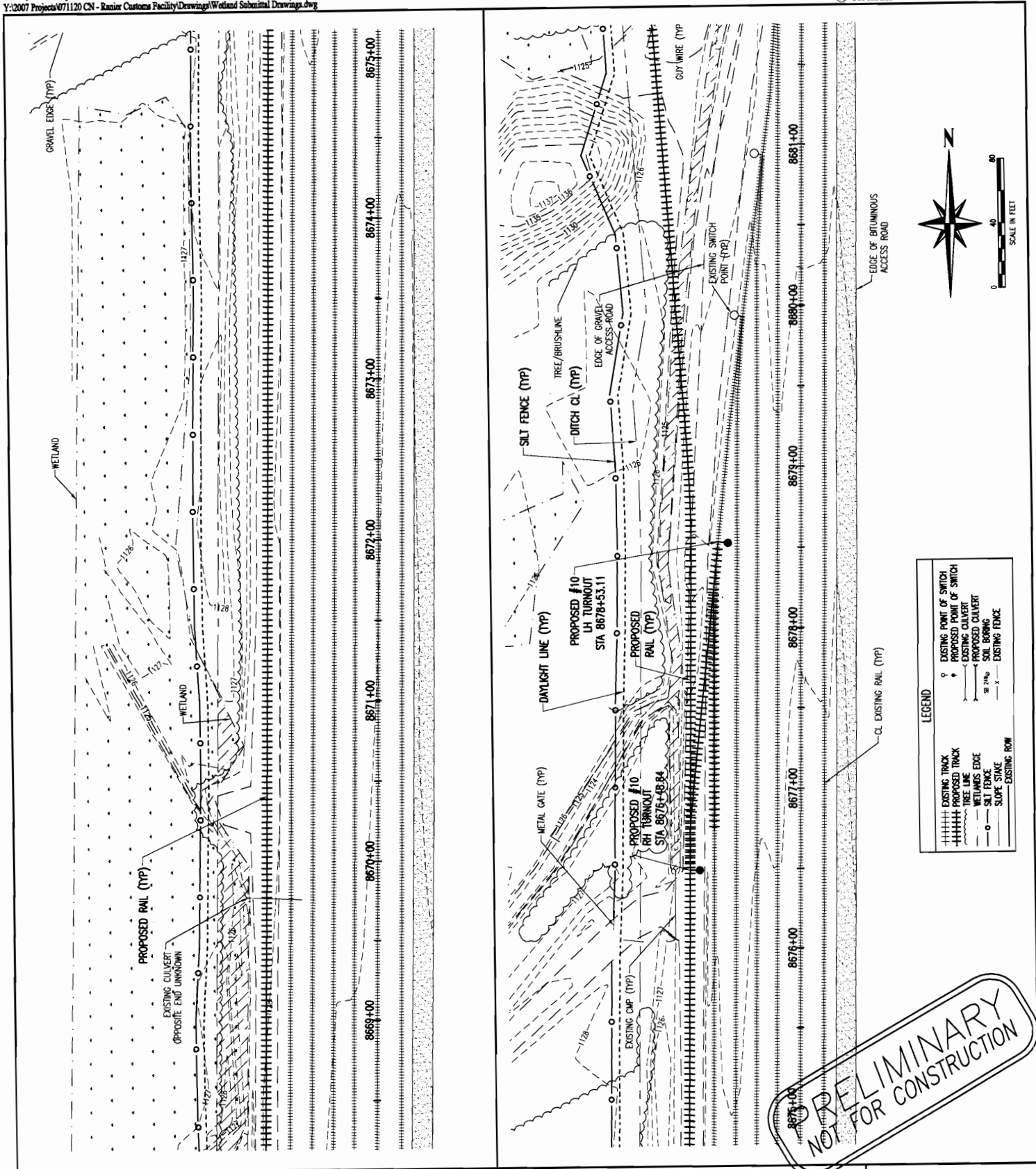
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OF 24

2007-3622-KJU Pg 3 of 5



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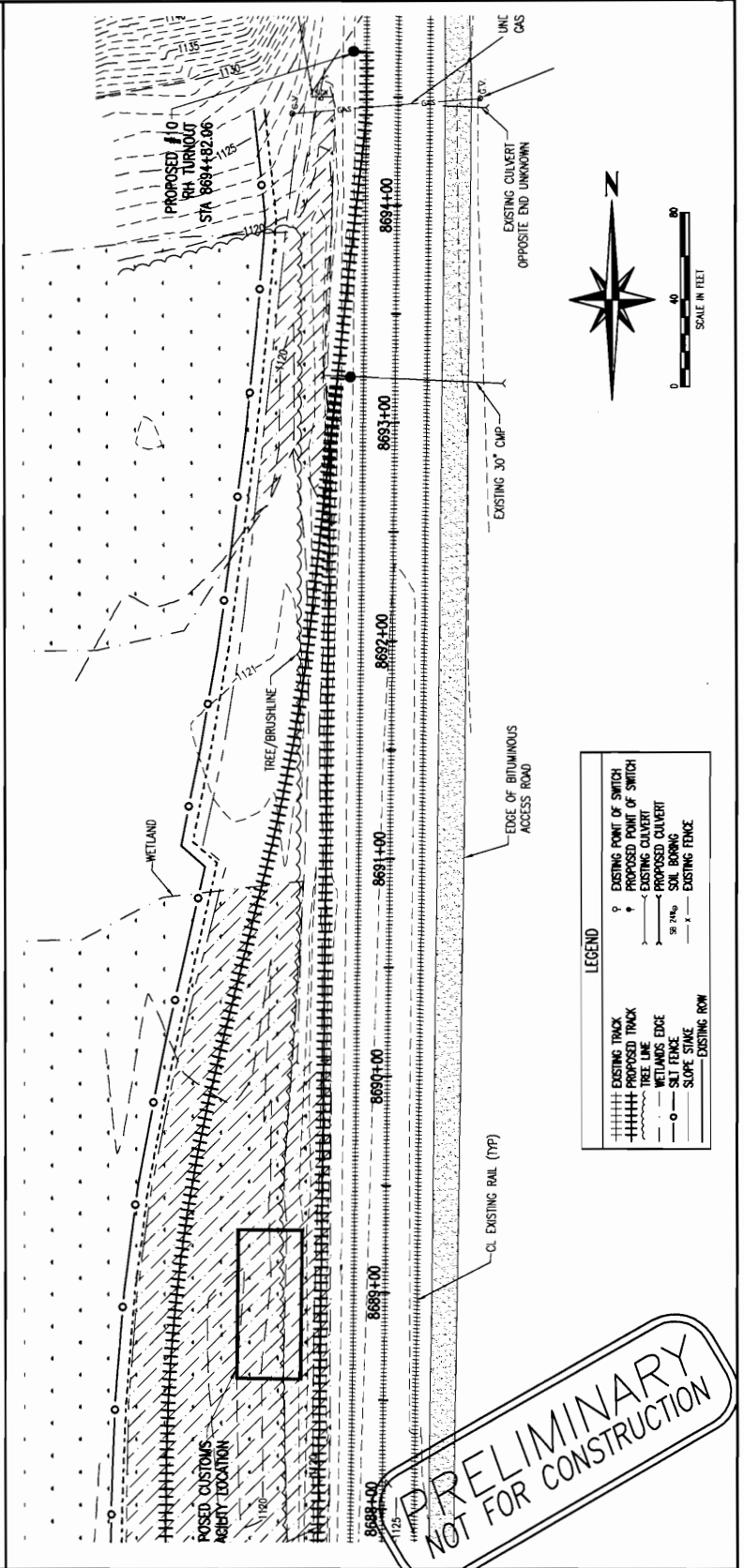
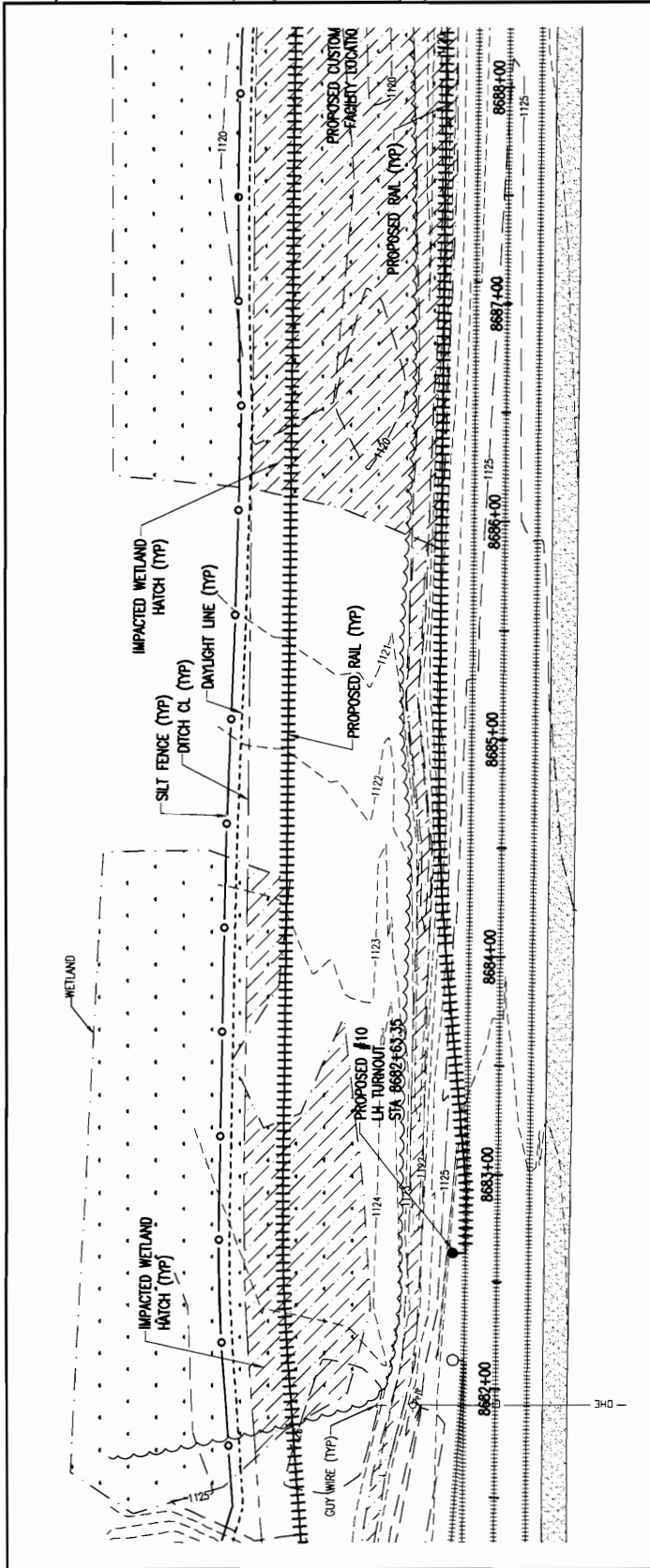
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6

OF 24

2007-3622-KJU Pg 4 of 5



LEGEND	
EXISTING TRACK	EXISTING POINT OF SWITCH
PROPOSED TRACK	PROPOSED POINT OF SWITCH
WET LINE EDGE	EXISTING CULVERT
WETLAND	PROPOSED CULVERT
SLOPE STAKE	SLOPE STAKE
EXISTING ROW	EXISTING FENCE

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PLAN VIEW

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7

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2007 3622-KJU Pg 5 of 5